

## Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
----- 120746

O 131350Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8702

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3523

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJ: POSSIBLE BITSIOS-CAGLAYANGIL MEETING

REF: A. ATHENS 3424 (NOTAL)

B. NICOSIA 1588

1. LAST NIGHT AT A SOCIAL FUNCTION, FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS GOT ME ASIDE TO SAY THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR HIS MEETING WITH TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL HAD DIMMED SUBSTANTIALLY OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS. HE SAID THAT THEY HAD EARLIER REACHED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO MEET BEGINNING SUNDAY, MAY 18 IN ROME AND THAT BITSIOS HAD BEEN ASKED BY CAGLAYANGIL TO CLEAR THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUCH A MEETING WITH THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT DURING BITSIOS' JUST COMPLETED OFFICIAL VISIT TO ROME, AND BITSIOS HAD DONE SO. HOWEVER, BITSIOS SAID, HE HAD HAD TO INFORM CAGLAYANGIL THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM (BITSIOS) TO ATTEND SUCH AN IMPORTANT BILATERAL MEETING BEGINNING MAY 18TH IF THE REFERENDUM ON THE TURKISH CYPRIOT "CONSTITUTION" WAS ALSO GOING TO BE HELD ON THAT DAY. BITSIOS PROPOSED TO CAGLAYANGIL THAT THE REFERENDUM BE POSTPONED, AND CAGLAYANGIL RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A POSTPONEMENT WITH DENKTASH, BUT CAGLAYANGIL WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT IT COULD BE ARRANGED.

2. CAGLAYANGIL HAD COUNTERED BY SUGGESTING THAT THEY GO AHEAD  
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WITH THEIR MAY 18 MEETING IN ROME ANYWAY AND THAT THEY ALSO

TAKE UP A WIDER RANGE OF SUBJECTS THAN THE TWO (SUBMISSION OF AEGEAN DISPUTE TO ICJ, AND CYPRUS) DESIRED BY BITSIOS. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE HAD INFORMED CAGLAYANGIL THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAD TO CONSIDER AND BE RESPONSIVE TO DOMESTIC PUBLIC OPINION, AND THE GREEK PEOPLE SIMPLY WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT SENDING A MINISTER TO MEET WITH A TURKISH GOVERNMENT MINISTER ON THE VERY DAY THAT THE TURKS WERE PROCEEDING WITH ANOTHER FAIT ACCOMPLI ON CYPRUS.

3. GIVEN THEIR INABILITY THUS FAR TO AGREE IN ADVANCE ON THE TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED AND THE COMPLICATING FACTOR OF THE DATE OF THE "CONSTITUTIONAL" REFERENDUM, BITSIOS SAID THAT THE CHANCES OF HIS MEETING WITH CAGLAYANGIL BEFORE THE BRUSSELS SUMMIT MAY 29-30 WERE FADING RAPIDLY. BITSIOS SAID HE WOULD OF COURSE SEE CAGLAYANGIL IN BRUSSELS BUT THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE HIS LEGAL EXPERTS WITH HIM AND AT THIS POINT AT LEAST, DID NOT FORESEE THEIR BEING ABLE TO NEGOTIATE IN BRUSSELS THE "COMPROMIS" ON THE AEGEAN DISPUTE FOR SUBMISSION TO THE WORLD COURT. IN ADDITION, BITSIOS LAMENTED THE FACT THAT ANY CARAMANLIS-DEMIREL GET-TOGETHER IN BRUSSELS WOULD NOT HAVE HAD THE KIND OF ADVANCE PREPARATION BY THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS THAT WOULD PAVE THE WAY FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE AND WORTHWHILE MEETING.

4. COMMENT: BITSIOS VOLUNTEERED ALL OF THE ABOVE AND I CONFINED MYSELF PRETTY MUCH TO ENCOURAGING HIM TO TRY AND FIND A WAY TO HOLD THE MEETING ON SCHEDULE. BITSIOS DID NOT ASK THAT WE TRY AND INFLUENCE THE TURKS OR HELP CLEAR THE WAY FOR HIS MEETING WITH CAGLAYANGIL AND, IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT MESSAGES I HAVE SEEN BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND ANKARA, I DID NOT THINK I SHOULD TAKE ANY INITIATIVE AT THIS POINT WHICH COULD HAVE LEAD TO ANOTHER GREEK REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE.  
KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETING AGENDA, POLICIES, DISPUTES, COURTS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ATHENS03523  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750167-0666  
**From:** ATHENS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750555/aaaabxmi.tel  
**Line Count:** 94  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 75 ATHENS 3424  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <16 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBLE BITSIOS-CAGLAYANGIL MEETING  
**TAGS:** PFOR, GR, TU, (BITSIOS, ISMAIL), (CAGLAYANGIL, IHSAN SABRI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006